

# Drought Status Report

## Short-term Drought Status April 2014

April was dry across the state, which is not unusual, but it was also extremely hot, so the little soil moisture that had been left from the meager snowpack and early March precipitation is gone. The grasses and vegetation that emerged during the warm periods of February and March have dried out in April, creating a significant early wildfire hazard. Little moisture is expected until the monsoon becomes active in late June or early July. Fire restrictions are already in place in many of the state and national forests.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona

April 29, 2014

(Released Thursday, May 1, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

|                        | None  | D0-D1  | D1-D2 | D2-D3 | D3-D4 | D4   |
|------------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Current                | 0.00  | 100.00 | 98.17 | 81.20 | 7.69  | 0.00 |
| Last Week              | 0.00  | 100.00 | 98.17 | 81.20 | 7.31  | 0.00 |
| 3 Months Ago           | 8.29  | 91.71  | 68.43 | 36.10 | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| Start of Calendar Year | 20.72 | 79.28  | 53.58 | 14.73 | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| Start of Water Year    | 14.83 | 85.17  | 61.91 | 25.28 | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| One Year Ago           | 0.00  | 100.00 | 86.66 | 66.28 | 16.22 | 0.00 |

### Intensity

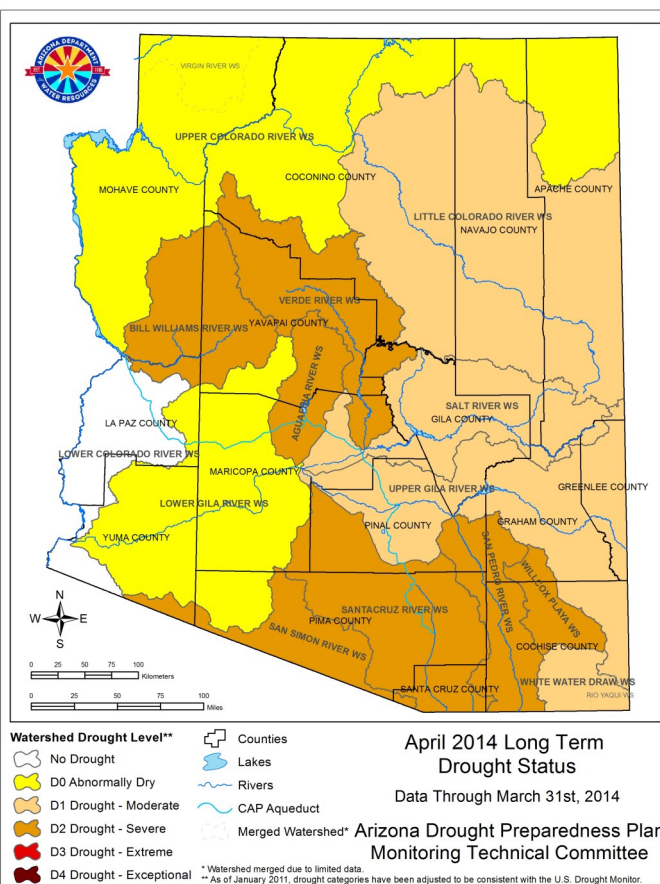
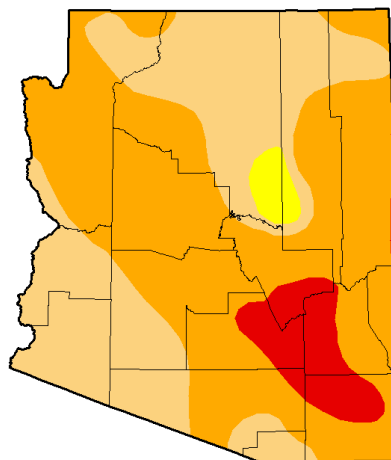
D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought  
D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought  
D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



## Long-term Drought Status January — March 2014

The late fall and early winter storms in November and December are responsible for most of the precipitation thus far in the water year (October 1 —September 30). That moisture led to some improvements to the long term drought conditions in January. However, the last three months have been extremely dry statewide, and that has resulted in downgrading the watersheds in northern, central and eastern Arizona.

The Lower Colorado, Lower Gila, San Simon, San Pedro, and Willcox Playa watershed in southern Arizona had no change, mostly due to the fact that they receive very little of their annual precipitation in the winter. The only area with no drought is Yuma and southern La Paz counties, and the lower Gila is borderline at abnormally dry.

The next update in July will reflect the spring conditions, and is not expected to show much improvement, as April through June are our driest months of the year.